



“From driving a truck to steering a company”

Associated Transport Company honors Wendell Henrie Bennett for thirty-five years of loyal service

On Friday evening, the nearly 200 employees of Associated Transport Company, (ATCO), and Ecotech, which are both under the umbrella of Meta Corp, gathered in the work yard of their Sabana Blanco headquarters to honor Managing Director Wendell Henrie Bennett and his thirty-five years of service to the company and its staff.

A gala event was arranged by a number of the administrative staff, including Judith Petronia and Jeanine Lampe, to pay homage to a man that started at the very bottom rung of the corporate ladder, and worked his way to the top position in one of Aruba's largest companies.

Eduardo de Veer, CEO of Meta Corp was called to the stage, where he recollected the many years and experiences shared with Wendell, who showed a loyalty and devotion to his employer, even after a long hospital stay from a serious accident while driving their trucks. Despite starting in the lowliest of positions on September 1, 1972, Wendell always exhibited qualities of leadership, and after four years was promoted to a supervisory position. From that time, the only way for Wendell to travel was up, and through diligent effort, a continual display of sound judgment, initiative, diplomacy, and fairness with dealing with his staff and fellow supervisors, he worked his way to the position of Managing Director ten years ago.

During the anniversary celebration, Eduardo de Veer presented Wendell with a “Meta Corp Achievement Award” trophy, which is rarely done, and which Wendell revealed meant a great deal to him. “I had tried hard over the years to win one of these, but never quite made it,” he confessed. “Now I am in the same league with such important people as the boxer Sugar Ray Leonard,” who was also a recipient of the award in the past. Wendell was further honored with warm sentiments from his fellow workers, and was assisted by his son Shaquille in accepting and opening several gifts from ATCO management, which included, among many, a Movado watch and a giant, framed graphic poster in tribute to his years of exemplary service.

Wendell was joined on the stage by his wife Juliana and mother Ianty, who were also presented with bouquets of flowers on this special day. He expressed thanks to his family in their steadfast support and love, despite the long hours he devoted to his work. He recounted many humorous anecdotes of his years with Meta Corp, and in particular thanked his supervisory and administrative staff for making his time as Managing Director successful. “Work is not only about making money,” he stated, “you can buy a house, but that is not a **home**. When I had been with the company for two years, there was a celebratory dinner at which they honored men who had been with the company twenty and twenty-five years. I looked at them and could not imagine me staying with any company for so long, and yet, thirty-five years later, here I am! Thirty five years ago, I found a home, and if they would let me go on for another thirty-five years, I would.”

The staff of THE NEWS offers congratulations to Wendell and Meta Corp on their successful partnership in business and life; may you both enjoy many more years together!